

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 9, 12, and 18 in view of the Examiner Interview that took place on March 24, 2009. More specifically, the Examiner requested clarification of the properties of the formed clique. Support for the amendments is found in paragraph 0018 of Applicant's published patent application. No new matter has been submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein prior to action on the application.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, it is Applicant's position that the amendments submitted herewith clarifies the operative nature of the invention. Furthermore, with respect to the prior art rejection, Applicant continues to maintain their position that the submitted amendments are not met by the prior art of record. More specifically, *Ostergard* does not teach the aspect of updating the connectivity count in the manner claimed by Applicant. Applicant claims updating the connectivity count in the clique each time a vertex is removed from the graph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider both the concern of the operative nature of the invention and the prior art non-patent literature of *Ostergard* in view of the amendment to the claims submitted herewith.

In view of the forgoing amendment and remarks to the claims, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Applicant is not conceding in this application that those claims in their prior forms are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claims are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications. Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

For the reasons outlined above, an allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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